



## Facts about the Golden State Examination/Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

- In its first year (1987), GSE offered two examinations—first-year algebra and geometry.
- In 2001, GSE offered thirteen examinations—first-year algebra, geometry, high school mathematics, U.S. history, economics, government/civics, biology, chemistry, second-year coordinated science, physics, reading/literature, written composition, and Spanish language.
- Exams completed have increased from 96,657 in 1987 to 1,215,297 in 2000.
- About one out of three GSE participants earns high honors, honors, or recognition designations each year.
- Students who qualify for a STAR scholarship through the Governor's Scholars Program in 2000 or 2001 may also be eligible for the Governor's Distinguished Math and Science Scholars Program if they achieve high honors on both the GSE in High School Mathematics and any GSE science examination in 2000 or 2001. These GSE results may be used for this purpose only if the school does not offer the International Baccalaureate Program or the Advanced Placement (AP) examinations in calculus and biology, chemistry, or physics. A detailed outline of the eligibility criteria is available at [www.scholarshare.com](http://www.scholarshare.com) on the Internet.
- The Golden State Seal Merit Diploma recognizes public school graduates who demonstrate mastery of the high school curriculum in designated content areas.
- To be eligible for the Golden State Diploma, students must attain high honors, honors, or recognition designations on Golden State Examinations in U.S. History, Written Composition or Reading/Literature, a mathematics exam, a science exam, and two other Golden State Examinations of the student's choice.
- More than 14,588 Golden State Diplomas have been awarded: 1,418 to 1997 graduates, 2,739 to 1998 graduates, 5,131 to 1999 graduates, and 6,001 to year 2000 graduates. To date, 6,762 diplomas have been awarded to 2001 graduates.

### Number of Golden State Examinations Completed

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991*	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999**	2000	2001
First-year Algebra	56,075	72,506	82,852	91,296	18,826	80,524	107,744	110,884	127,828	148,100	170,123	169,390	180,908	194,049	204,887
Geometry	40,582	51,281	58,241	69,925	9,858	49,183	68,897	72,146	85,548	99,100	113,025	113,300	120,655	129,022	138,556
U.S. History				19,534	3,536	32,182	49,986	49,051	54,930	71,050	89,034	97,082	101,892	107,624	111,317
Economics				8,055	972	10,826	32,292	34,342	41,469	48,000	54,996	71,941	75,263	75,207	71,537
Biology					2,072	30,734	48,188	53,447	58,744	72,900	96,727	106,741	118,722	131,311	132,670
Chemistry					1,241	21,207	30,429	35,658	38,504	47,350	64,184	71,320	78,695	85,034	89,112
2nd-year Coordinated Science								5,661	13,637	16,350	21,123	22,793	26,055	26,633	25,630
Written Composition										14,741	104,356	140,209	93,854	104,843	107,032
Government/Civics											26,682	69,479	71,552	74,943	73,004
High School Mathematics												47,999	35,811	48,638	49,596
Reading/Literature												55,622	69,279	85,771	87,466
Physics													32,480	35,019	33,824
Spanish Language													89,790	80,722	90,666
Total Completed	96,657	123,787	141,093	188,810	36,505	224,656	337,536	361,189	420,660	517,591	740,250	965,876	1,094,956	1,178,816	1,215,297

\* In 1991, the participation rate dropped because districts were required to pay for students to be assessed.

\*\* 1999 was the first year high school mathematics, reading/literature, and written composition were offered in the winter administration only.